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Letter dated 18 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea issued on 17 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 18 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea issued on 17 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union condemns and deeply deplores the resumption of hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea and the continuation of a conflict that endangers the security and development of the region, particularly in view of the food crisis which is bound to worsen as a result of the renewed fighting.

The European Union welcomes and supports resolution 1297 (2000) adopted by the Security Council.

The European Union earnestly appeals to both sides to put an immediate end to the fighting and to resume peace negotiations under the aegis of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) without any prior conditions, in order to reach agreement on the technical arrangements for the implementation of the framework agreement and the modalities accepted by both sides.

The European Union confirms its full support for the peace efforts of OAU and its willingness to assist with the implementation of the peace agreement that may be reached within this pan-African framework.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with the present statement.